The future of public service in Tasmania – what are our options, and our obligations?

Tasmania spends a high percentage of its budget on public sector wages. As purse strings tighten in a challenging fiscal environment, difficult questions arise about return on that investment.

Do we need fewer public servants, or simply better ones? What are our obligations and options when we spend public money?

The role, responsibility and relevance of public service – and the real implications for public servants – will be explored in the first Denison Debate for 2012: *Frank, Fearless or Forgotten? The Role of Public Service Today*.

Associate Professor Natasha Cica, Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society, will be in conversation with:

- Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, UK
- Mr Rhys Edwards, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Professor David Adams, Social Inclusion Commissioner

“Professor Sir Ian Kennedy is among the world’s most engaging public intellectuals and most effective change agents in the area of public policy,” said the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Peter Rathjen.

“It’s exciting to have Sir Ian visiting Tasmania and our university, placing timely questions about probity, trust and accountability in public life firmly on our community’s agenda - and sharing his views with Tasmanian experts of the calibre of Rhys Edwards and David Adams,” said.

“The Inglis Clark Centre is delighted to offer such a strong local and international line-up for the first Denison Debate for 2012,” said Associate Professor Natasha Cica, Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society.

“Questions about the meaning and future of public service aren’t just academic for Tasmanians,” she said.
“Many of us work as public servants, and there’s great anxiety in the Tasmanian community about real or suggested cuts to jobs and services in that sector.”

*The Denison Debate series provides a forum for more open and vibrant Tasmanian conversations about ideas and values in our society and is hosted by the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society.*

**Who:** All are welcome to attend and admission is free  
**When:** Wednesday 28 March 2012, 6 -7:30pm  
**Where:** Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus

**For more information/interviews, please contact:** Associate Professor Natasha Cica, Director, Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society, University of Tasmania: 0416 005 820

**Information Released by:**  
The Media Office, University of Tasmania  
Phone: (03) 6226 2124 Mob. 0447 537 375  
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au